

Executive Director Dawn Dole, The Taos Institute (USA)

Appreciative Inquiry in Challenging Situations

ABSTRACT

In this Practice Showcase, Dawn will share a brief history of AI, explore the guiding principles of AI and invite participants to experience a short AI process based on our best learning moments in a classroom or school. We will then explore the challenging situations that participants are experiencing in schools, and develop an understanding of how Appreciative Inquiry might be useful.

As the term implies, AI is an inquiry that focuses on appreciating and then building upon an organization's, the schools', the classes', or the person's core strengths rather than seeking to overcome or minimize the weaknesses. One thing is clear as we reflect on the most important things we have learned with AI: human systems grow in the direction of what they persistently ask questions about and this propensity is strongest and most sustainable when the means and ends of inquiry are positively correlated. The single most prolific thing a group can do if its aims are to liberate the human spirit and consciously construct a better future is to make the positive change core the common and explicit property of all.